



**SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT**
2016-2017





Sustainable Decaffeination

Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Company is part of a remarkable network of coffee growers, producers, exporters, roasters, baristas and coffee lovers. We play one unique and special role in that chain.

Our process is chemical free, which maintains the chain of sustainability from farm to cup. To achieve that, we take a process that's already free of chemicals, continually improve and innovate this process to be more efficient, and deliver higher quality while actively managing resource usage.

We also go beyond decaffeination to support causes and initiatives that make a real impact in communities near and far.

OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DECAFFEINATION:

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01.

Supporting the future of coffee and coffee communities

SUSTAINABLE DECAFFEINATION

Swiss Water® Process is proudly chemical free. And because we keep methylene chloride and ethyl acetate out of our facility, we keep it out of the supply chain and out of coffee. This means that the coffee we source (and process) maintains its sustainability throughout the supply chain from farm to cup.

% OF SWP SOURCED COFFEES SUSTAINABLY CERTIFIED

	2015	2016
Fairtrade	14%	15%
Rainforest Alliance	4%	5%
Organic	21%	22%

SUSTAINABLY CERTIFIED

Of the coffees we source, sustainably certified coffees made up 25% of our volume in 2015, and grew to 27% in 2016.

- Fairtrade Certified currently comprises 15%
- Rainforest Alliance 5%
- Organic Certified coffees (some of which are concurrently Fairtrade and Rainforest alliance) are 22%.



TRACEABILITY

- In 2016, we launched an online traceability program that allows our customers to directly trace many of the coffees they buy from us.
- In 2016, 27% of the coffees we source were traceable to the mill, and we expect to grow this to 36% in 2017.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

Swiss Water® Process is certified organic by the Organic Crop Improvement Association, the world's largest organic certification agency, in accordance with standards developed by the USDA National Organic Program. Our decaffeination facility conforms to the OCIA's rigorous standards and meets equivalencies in the US, EU, and Japan.

The organic integrity of our operation ensures organic coffee beans maintain their organic certification through decaffeination and onto the coffee roaster.



WORLD COFFEE RESEARCH

World Coffee Research ensures the future of coffee, with essential research on the plant and on the conditions that help it thrive. We've been a proud member since the inception of World Coffee Research in 2012.



01.

Supporting the future of coffee and coffee communities

COFFEE COMMUNITIES

By supporting the sustainability of the community, we support the sustainability of the farms.



GROUNDS FOR HEALTH

Leadership sponsor

Since 2003, we've had a close relationship with Grounds for Health, and we are committed to influencing direct and positive impact on the health, empowerment and dignity of women and families in coffee-growing communities. We have contributed over CAN\$300K in corporate and employee contributions. Our employees proudly volunteer, contribute and raise funds for this great initiative.

WATER PROJECTS

Water plays an important role in our process. We believe everyone should have access to clean water, and we are big fans (and supporters) of some local partners who are also working to make clean water available to everyone.



RUN FOR WATER

The Run for Water Society shares the goal of promoting healthy physical activity and community spirit as well as raising funds for clean water development. This year, they are supporting water projects in Dengali, Ethiopia. In 2016 members of our team participated in the Run for Water, and were so impressed that in 2017 we've expanded our support of the organization with a sponsorship of the Abbotsford Run For Water. Check out the video they made for us at:

<https://vimeo.com/210078511>



MiiR

A portion of all MiiR's proceeds support 55+ water projects in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa including biosand filters, construction and rehabilitation of water systems, hygiene and sanitation programs. When looking for a mug to give our partners and friends, partnering with MiiR just made sense.



02.

Caring for our local community and environment

We buy and sell coffee from all over the world, but we call Canada home. Our company enthusiastically supports several local organizations that focus on healthy food, healthy kids, and clean water.



ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION / CANADIAN ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION Member since 2015

OTA's mission is to promote and protect ORGANIC with a unifying voice that serves and engages its diverse members from farm to marketplace. OTA's vision is to grow ORGANIC to achieve excellence in agriculture and commerce, protect the environment and enhance community well-being.



TIM HORTON CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION Sponsor & Volunteer since 2014

The Tim Horton Children's Foundation creates programs designed to change the way young people from low-income families think about themselves and the opportunities that exist for them. In addition to sponsoring, we've sent some of our team to volunteer at these wonderful camps.



THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

In 2017, we kicked off our company volunteer initiative with a goal to contribute 100 hours of volunteer time to a worthy local cause. This year's first project is the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, organized by Vancouver Aquarium and the World Wildlife Foundation.

03.

Encouraging our team's health and professional development

We believe that creating opportunities to develop professionally combined with support of our team's health and work/life balance helps keep us productive, creative, and the best at what we do.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Our team is encouraged to take part in and progress in industry certification programs, workshops, and memberships (i.e. LEAN, CQI Q-Grader, SCA Education Courses, FSMA training, etc.).
- We are involved in the coffee industry as barista judges, SCA committee members, Q-Graders, approved SCA Trainers, and industry event speakers.
- Swiss Water sponsors volunteer opportunities and encourages involvement in community initiatives (Grounds for Health, IWCA, Run for Water, Tim Horton Children's Foundation).

HEALTH & WORK/LIFE BALANCE

- Staff is supported thru flexible work schedules that benefit families.
- Team exercise & social groups, and employer-paid sponsorship in charity run/walks.



PHOTO: Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Company



04.

Improving efficiencies to reduce resource usage

Swiss Water® Process is a chemical-free decaffeination process that uses only coffee, water, temperature, and time to extract caffeine from green coffee beans.

We are fully committed to quality coffee, and we are committed to never using chemicals to remove caffeine. We proudly keep methylene chloride and ethyl acetate out of our facility and away from your coffee.

While free of chemicals, our process does use energy, natural gas, and water. Our approach to responsible energy management integrates powerful internal metrics & tracking with specific plans and strategies targeted at continuing improvements in energy usage and efficiency.

By combining a focus on manufacturing efficiencies with an innovative approach to constantly improving our process, we serve our environment, community and customers by providing the best quality product while continually working to reduce resource usage.

 **Water**

We use Green Coffee Extract (GCE) to decaffeinate coffee, so the majority of our water usage goes towards moving carbon around our system. We carefully manage water usage so that the majority (75%) is returned to rivers and streams. Because we do not use chemical in our process, minimal treatment is required.

 **Electricity**

Through efficiency improvements, we substantially reduced our Kwh per pound of coffee in 2015, a trend that we sustained in 2016.

 **Natural Gas**

Through process improvements, our natural gas usage is more consistent and stable than in the past, which means we can work against achieving greater efficiency in per-pound gas utilization.

 **Carbon**

We are using carbon more efficiently; attrition rate has dropped by 50% since 2009. This means we use less virgin carbon and essentially recycle more internally.

 **Waste**

Through work with a waste handling consultant, we now divert 50% of our waste to alternative uses and away from the landfill, much of it going to compost.